DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 393 706 SE 058 290

AUTHOR McKeon, Richard; And Others
TITLE On Knowing the Natural Sciences.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-226-56027-9
PUB DATE 15 Jan 95
NOTE 419p.
AVAILABLE FROM University of Chicago Press, 5801 S. Ellis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637 (paperback: ISBN-0-226-56027-9; clothbound: ISBN-0-226-56026-0).
PUB TYPE Books (010)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Higher Education; *Natural Sciences; *Philosophy; *Physics

ABSTRACT

When teaching introductory courses at the University of Chicago, Richard McKeon would often comment that "any problem pushed far enough is philosophic". His point was that philosophizing is not just the technical province of academic professionals but an important aspect of all thoughtful undertakings. The present volume explores the consequences of this idea in the disciplines of the natural sciences, with particular focus on physics. It is based on McKeon's lectures and his expositions of texts during discussions and presents a uniquely detailed record of his educational practice. Focusing on understanding recurring issues in the disciplines and fundamental assumptions present in arguments about those issues, it provides an introduction to philosophy as McKeon conceived of it. This book grew out of the first of a series of three courses McKeon invented and taught at Chicago in the 1950s and 1960s. The lectures and discussions included are based on transcriptions of a collection of tape recordings made by an unknown individual or individuals in 1963. The discussions are based on five classic texts in Physics: Plato's "Timaeus," Aristotle's "Physics," Galileo Galilei's "Dialogues Concerning Two New Sciences," Henry Crew and Alfonso de Salvio's "Newton's Philosophy of Nature: Selections from his Writings," and J. Clerk Maxwell's "Matter and Motion." (JRH)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

THIS
DOCUMENT
NOT
AVAILABLE
FROM

EDRS